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Message Text

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44
ACTION NEA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W
---------- 058169
R 051125Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO USINFO IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4365

UNCLAS CAIRO 5569

E.O. 11652: NXA
TAGS:
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- FORD-SADAT MEETING

REF USIA 12095

1. CAIRO PAPERS REPORT ON FRONTPAGE POST-SALZBURG STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER. PAPERS QUOTE SECRETARY AS SAYING SADAT-FORD TALKS INDICATE THAT CIRCUMSTANCES FOR ME SETTLEMENT ARE NOW PRESENT. ACCORDING TO AL AHRAM, SECRETARY THEN CAUTIONED THAT THERE IS NO CLEAR-CUT INDICATION THAT SUCH PROGRESS WILL TAKE PLACE. ALL PAPERS REPORT STATEMENT BY UN-NAMED US OFFICIAL THAT SADAT-FORD TALKS "WERE EXTREMELY POSITIVE" AND MAY LEAD TO NEW ERA IN ME DIPLOMACY. AL AHRAM AND AL GOMHOURIYA QUOTE ISRAELI SOURCES IN TEL AVIV AS SAYING THAT SECRETARY MAY RETURN TO REGION IN JULY FOR "EXPLORATORY TALKS ABOUT POSSIBILITIES OF CONCLUDING NEW DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF OVERALL SETTLEMENT."

2. AL AKHBAR MENTIONS PRESIDENT FORD'S ADDRESS TO WEST POINT ACADEMY IN WHICH HE SAID THAT,BECAUSE OF ITS UNIQUE POSITION, US CAN CONTRIBUTE TO CONCLUDING PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF ME CRISIS, "ONE OF GRAVEST WORLD PROBLEMS." STORY ALSO QUOTES UPI REPORT THAT BOTH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER SEEMED TO BE "OPTIMISTIC" ABOUT REACHING ME SETTLEMENT. ANOTHER FRONTPAGE STORY DEALS WITH "COMPLETION" OF
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ISRAELI FORCES REDUCTION, AND STATEMENT BY ISRAEL'S

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DEFENSE MINISTER PEREZ THAT ISRAEL "IS READY TO GIVE
UP MANY ADDITIONAL THINGS FOR SAKE OF GENUINE PEACE.Z
SEPARATE FRONTPAGE STORY BY HUSSEIN FAHMY SAYS THAT
EGYPTIAN-AMERICAN ECONOMIC GROUP WILL DISCUSS PROBLEMS
OF MONEY LIQUIDITY, DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND AMENDMENT
OF LOANS FROM MEDIUM TO LONG RANGE ON JUNE 15.

4. PAPERS PUBLISHED SECOND PART OF LEBANESE TV INTERVIEW
WITH PRESIDENT SADAT RECORDED PRIOR TO SALZBURG MEETING
AND TELEVISED IN BEIRUT ON JUNE 4. INTERVIEW DEALT
PRIMARILY WITH RE-OPENING OF SUEZ CANAL BUT ALSO INCLUDED
SADAT'S PREDICTION HE WOULD MEET PRESIDENT FORD
"TO DISCUSS WAYS OF GETTING PEACE INITIATIVE STARTED AGAIN"
FOLLOWING BREAKDOWN OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MISSION,
AND TO LEARN RESULTS OF US ME POLICY REEVALUATION.
SADAT SAID HE HAD NOT MET PRESIDENT FORD BEFORE, BUT
SAW FILM OF HIS INQUGURATION -- AND ON THAT BASIS HE
THOUGHT PRESIDENT FORD IS "HONEST AND STRAIGHTFORWARD."
HAD THE 76 PRO-ISRAELI SENATORS BEEN BRAVE ENOUGH,
SADAT, "THEY WOULD HAVE SAID THEY WANTED ISRAEL
TO RETAIN ARAB LANDS AND GET FURTHER ECONOMIC AND
MILITARY AID TO STEP UP ITS THREATS AGAINST WORLD
PEACE AND US INTERESTS." HE CALLED THE LETTER "REGRETTABLE."

5. ON SENATORS' LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD, AL AHRAM FRONT-
PAGES STATEMENT BY SENATOR MCGOVERN THAT NEITHER HE NOR
OTHER SIGNATORIES MEANT TO SUPPORT ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF
ARAB LANDS OR TO DENY PALESTINIAN RIGHTS.

6. NOEDITORIAL COMMENT.
RUSSELL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO05569
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750196-0945
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750675/aaaacqiv.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USIA 12095
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAR 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION -- FORD-SADAT MEETING
TAGS: SOPN, EG, US, (SADAT, ANWAR), (FORD, GERALD R)
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006